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# HONOLULU ON THE MOVE

MARCH 2012

THE HONOLULU RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT NEWSLETTER

## HONOLULU ON THE MOVE

MARCH 2012

### STAY CONNECTED—ONLINE



The Honolulu Rail Transit Project's QR Code (Quick Response Code) quickly connects individuals with an iPhone or smart phone to the project's website in a snap with the click of a button.



### Contact Us

You can reach us by calling project information at (808) 566-2299 or by submitting your comments to [www.HonoluluTransit.org](http://www.HonoluluTransit.org).

Call or email us if you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter or would like to be removed from our mailing list.

## "Teen Transit" Program Works with Students



Students from Waipahu High School listens in on a rail presentation.

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) is committed to engaging Hawaii's youth in the rail transit project through its "Teen Transit" youth

The program includes:

- **Speakers Bureau:** Subject matter experts are available to speak to schools
- **"Teen Transit" Youth Education Networking Group:** Open to all middle, high school and college age students who are interested in alternative modes of transportation, to regularly network, discuss clean energy issues, and get involved in educational and community-based activities
- **Educational Resources:** Data, collateral materials, and graphic resources are available to students and educators
- **College Internships:** Available to college students who are interested in engineering, construction, planning, renewable energy, and other related careers
- **Youth Website:** HART will provide mentorship opportunities for students interested in producing educational videos and/or PSAs on mobility for future generations
- **Ōlelo Community Media's 9th Annual Youth Xchange Video Competition:** HART will feature its category's award winning entries and student submissions on its soon new youth website, at public events and air the PSAs during its monthly newsmagazine TV show "Honolulu on the Move" on Ōlelo Channel 54

For more info visit the project website at [www.HonoluluTransit.org](http://www.HonoluluTransit.org).

education program. The goal of the program is to EDUCATE:

- **E**ducate Hawaii's youth to become more informed citizens about the Honolulu Rail Transit project
- **D**evelop our student workforce
- **U**timize alternative modes of transportation as a means to achieve Hawaii's clean energy goals
- **C**reate mentorship opportunities
- **A**ctively engage students as energy and environmental stewards;
- **T**rain students in the area of STEM education (science, technology, engineering, and math)
- **E**mpower youth to make a difference in our community and let their voices be heard

The "Teen Transit" youth education program creates a dynamic and fun learning experience for students and educators alike.

## Obama Includes \$250 Million for Honolulu Rail

President Barack Obama has included \$250 million for the Honolulu Rail Transit project as part of his 2013 federal budget, the single largest amount for any rail project in the country.



President Obama

Honolulu's rail project tops the list of five projects that are pending a Full Funding Grant Agreement in the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program budget.

1. **Honolulu Rail Transit Project (Honolulu, HI): \$250M**
2. **Third Street Light Rail (San Francisco, CA): \$150M**
3. **Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project (San Jose, CA): \$150M**
4. **Portland-Milwaukee Light Rail Project (Portland, OR): \$100M**
5. **South Sacramento Corridor (Sacramento, CA): \$46M**

"I am very pleased that the Honolulu Rail Transit project is the administration's top New Starts funding request for the coming fiscal year," said Senator Daniel Inouye. "Like any large, publicly funded project, there are bound to be questions and concerns about how best to proceed. But the facts remain that the successful construction and timely completion of this project will create jobs, decrease our dependence on imported oil, and offer a long awaited alternative to driving for thousands of working families on the West side of O`ahu. I have participated in rail transit discussions in Hawai`i

— SEE "OBAMA \$250 MILLION FOR RAIL" ON PAGE 2

## Feds Give Green Light for Column and Station Construction



Construction crews will soon be working on the foundations and the columns for the rail transit system guideway. Image courtesy of Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.

Work on the Honolulu Rail Transit project's foundations and columns will soon be underway, as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has approved the city's request to begin some additional construction.

The FTA issued what's known as a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP), authorizing the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) to use nearly \$185 million for work on the West O`ahu/Farrington Highway Guideway segment of the project as well as the Kamehameha Highway Guideway segment. The FTA also approved work on the project's Maintenance and Storage Facility and for three of the rail stations along the Farrington Highway portion of the route in Waipahu.

"We appreciate the FTA's willingness to work collaboratively with us to keep this

project moving forward," said HART Interim Executive Director Toru Hamayasu.

Hawaii's senior U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye applauded the FTA approval.

"We have debated and discussed a rail transit plan for O`ahu for decades and I am very pleased that the administration is allowing the city to proceed with construction. Too many hard working families on the West side of the island spend too much of their time stuck in traffic. This project offers an alternative to driving and helps lessen our dependence on imported fossil fuels. The construction of the

— SEE "FEDS GIVE GREEN LIGHT" ON PAGE 2





HONOLULU RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT

# Feds Give Green Light

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Work on the rail system foundations and support columns will begin in East Kapolei. Image courtesy of Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.

rail line will create jobs and help a construction industry that is always in need of good work. I will continue to do everything I can to support this project and direct federal funds to ensure its timely completion," said Senator Inouye.

Other members of the Hawai'i congressional delegation echoed Senator Inouye's sentiments.

"This brings us closer to achieving a modern rail system that will allow O'ahu residents to avoid traffic and lead to the development of communities that are more environmentally sustainable," said Senator Daniel Akaka, a member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Congresswoman Mazie Hirono said, "It is critical that we build public transportation systems that meet Hawaii's growing needs. This is another step forward for this important traffic-relieving jobs-creating project."

"While there is still work to do, proceeding with construction now not only means progress in serving O'ahu's transportation needs, but in the near future, it represents

jobs that strengthen our economy and help Hawaii's families," said Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa.

Honolulu residents can expect to see an increase in construction activity, especially in the Ewa area of the rail route between Kapolei and Pearl City. City contractors have been doing utility relocation and soil testing work in the area since last year.

"We are pleased to see this latest approval from the FTA that allows us to keep the project on track," said Damien Kim, chairman of the HART Board's Project Oversight Committee. "With revenues coming in higher than projected, and costs running below our estimates, the rail project is moving in the right direction. This project will provide a much-needed boost to our local economy and create thousands of jobs. Once completed, rail transit will be the heart of an efficient multimodal transportation system to deal with our island's increasing traffic congestion in a way that is consistent with O'ahu's development plan."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) will participate in the following events and/or have meetings open to the community. For the most up-to-date information, dates and times on events, visit [www.HonoluluTransit.org](http://www.HonoluluTransit.org).

### HART TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thurs., March 15, 2012 | 8:30 a.m.  
Mission Memorial Annex  
Conference Room  
550 S. King Street, Honolulu

### HART BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

Thurs., March 15, 2012 | 10:00 a.m.  
Mission Memorial Annex  
Conference Room  
550 S. King Street, Honolulu

### 28th ANNUAL PACIFIC RIM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Mon., March 26 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Tues., March 27 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Hawai'i Convention Center

### HART AUDIT-LEGAL MATTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thurs., March 29, 2012 | 9:00 a.m.  
Kapolei Hale, Conference Room B

### HART BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thurs., March 29, 2012 | 10:00 a.m.  
Kapolei Hale, Conference Room B

### 2012 FIRST HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

Fri., March 30 | 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Sat., March 31 | 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Sun., April 1 | 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Hawai'i Convention Center



## STAY CONNECTED—ON TV



Watch our weekly news magazine show on ʻŌlelo Channel 54 on Sundays at 4:30 p.m.



# LEARN ASK ENGAGE

## INFORMATIONAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) will present a series of five informational community updates on the Honolulu Rail Transit project. The public is welcome to attend and learn up-to-date details from project experts, experience informational displays, and ask questions of HART representatives.



For more information, contact (808) 566-2299 or email us at [info@HonoluluTransit.org](mailto:info@HonoluluTransit.org)

### URBAN HONOLULU

Tues., May 1, 2012 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
McKinley High School Cafeteria  
1039 South King Street

### SALT LAKE

Wed., May 2, 2012 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Radford High School Cafeteria  
4361 Salt Lake Boulevard

### KALIHI

Thurs., May 3, 2012 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Farrington High School Cafeteria  
1564 North King Street

### WAIPAHU

Tues., May 8, 2012 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Waipahu Intermediate School Cafeteria  
94-455 Farrington Highway

### MILILANI

Wed., May 9, 2012 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Mililani High School Cafeteria  
95-1200 Meheula Parkway

## Obama \$250 Million for Rail

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Washington for the last forty years and I can say, without reservation, that the support we currently enjoy from the government of the United States is unprecedented. To ignore this support would be a big mistake. I will continue to do everything I can to direct federal funds to the project and marshal support in the Congress. But we must work together, at all levels of government and throughout the community, to ensure that we do not waste our best opportunity to revolutionize the way we move about O'ahu."

Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said, "President Obama's budget has once again demonstrated the strong federal commitment to this job-creating project. The President recognizes that these types of investments in our nation's infrastructure directly strengthen our economy while also

providing long-term benefits by increasing access to clean and affordable transportation options to meet O'ahu's growing needs."

Honolulu has already been appropriated more than \$120 million in federal funding for the rail project, and is eligible to receive a portion of \$510 million that has been reserved for projects that conclude a Full Funding Grant Agreement by the end of 2012.

HART Board Chairwoman Carrie Okinaga said the latest budget request from the Obama administration verifies that the FTA continues to support Honolulu's project.

"Our costs are under budget and our revenues are on track," Okinaga said. "We are on the right path toward securing our federal funding and HART will continue to work collaboratively with the FTA and other stakeholders to achieve that goal."

# Honolulu Rail Transit CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

With the Honolulu Rail Transit project receiving federal approval to move to the next stage of construction, drivers should be aware of increased work activity along the rail route.

In preparation for the rail guideway construction contractor Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. continues with utility relocation work and soil testing along Farrington and Kamehameha highways in Ewa, Waipahu, Pearl City and Aiea.

HART is asking motorists to be alert for work crews on the roadways, particularly Farrington Highway between Kapolei and Pearl City. Motorists should obey posted traffic signs, be aware of construction work zones up ahead, and slow down for the safety of the construction crews, as well as other motorists.

Drivers should also anticipate possible traffic delays or use alternate routes during construction work hours. Motorists are advised to drive with caution and provide a safe distance between themselves and the construction workers and vehicles.

Archaeological survey work is planned along the urban Honolulu section of the rail route. The survey field work in Kalihi, downtown and Kaka'ako will aid project staff in their design of the elevated guideway. Trenching work is expected to run through Summer 2012.

For updates on construction work days and times, please visit the project website at [www.HonoluluTransit.org](http://www.HonoluluTransit.org) or contact our hotline at (808) 566-2299.

## GOT QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the rail transit project that you would like to see addressed in our newsletter, e-mail them to [info@HonoluluTransit.org](mailto:info@HonoluluTransit.org) or call our project hotline at (808) 566-2299.

